

Rio Grande Canalization Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Follow-up Discussion Workshop Modified Restoration Alternative

October 31, 2001



Agenda

- Discussion of premises for restoration alternative development
- Obtain comments, Q&A
- Agreement for EIS implementation



Premises for Goal 1: Changes in Stream Morphology to Diversify Aquatic Habitat

A. Old streambed retained within ROW but homogeneous habitat (drawings review)

B. Key Need: Slow water in spring for fish reproduction

- * Reopen meanders to form backwaters
- * Enhance habitat arroyo
(no dredging, riprap removal)



Premises for Goal 2: Partially Restore Function

A. Structural Flood Control:

- Levees are not dictating geometry
(placed outside historical streambed)
- Flow within channel
(widening unlikely under current flows)
- Riprap along channel not recently placed
(most placed in 60's)



Premises for Goal 2: Partially Restore Function

B. Non-Structural Flood Control (diagram):

- Levees deficiencies in urban areas
- Attenuation reduces flood risk/deficiencies
- Two potential locations (diagrams)
 - * Mile 75
 - * Mile 41



Premises for Goal 2: Partially Restore Function

C. Sediment Management:

- Flood dams control 50% of watershed (early 70's - diagram)
- Upper reach is not depositional (limits widening/braiding of channel)
- No new dams



Premises for Goal 3: Develop Riparian Corridor

- **Minor effect on potential flood storage**
- **Mowing needed to control salt cedar**
- **Getting water is the basis of the program**
 - * **Cooperation with districts**
 - * **Compensation for losses**
- **Not decommissioning land and water conservation key issues (handout)**



Premises for Goal 3: Develop Riparian Corridor

- **Managed irrigation primary mechanism**
 - * Support vegetation at selected locations
 - * Micro-irrigation
- **Pulses to be used at a latter stage to:**
 - * Support vegetation at selected locations
 - * Gradual widening of the channel
- **Pulse limit for EIS: 5000 cfs**
 - 100-year flood design
 - * Caballo Dam discharge limit

A scenic landscape featuring a calm river or lake in the middle ground, surrounded by lush green vegetation in the foreground. In the background, there are rolling hills or mountains under a clear, bright blue sky. The text "QUESTIONS" and "COMMENTS" is overlaid in the center of the image.

QUESTIONS COMMENTS



EIS Completion Path

